

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 36-49 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-18 have been allowed. Claims 19 and 29 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claims, in view of the comments provided below, is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-18 are allowed and that claim 21 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 36-49, which were withdrawn from consideration following the restriction requirement, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 19, 20, 22, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,204 B1). Claim 19 has been amended to include features from claim 21, which was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 19 and the claims that depend therefrom are, therefore, now allowable.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the proposed combination of Hamakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,993,073) in view of Tanaka. Independent claim 29 has been amended to include the same features from claim 21 as claim 19. Therefore, claim 29 is also allowable, as are the claims that depend from claim 29.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and reasons provided above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Iain A. McIntyre at (612) 436-9610.

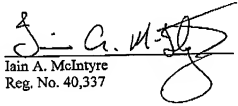
Respectfully submitted,

CCVL

Customer No. 38846

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By:

  
Iain A. McIntyre  
Reg. No. 40,337